



HARP ON WIGHT

*International*  
FESTIVAL

22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

## RYDE TOWN COUNCIL

*Harp on Wight* wishes to express grateful appreciation to Ryde Town Council for its vision in supporting our mission to share the song of the harp with the people of Ryde and the Isle of Wight; also with all those who come from overseas to take part in our celebration of the harp and its music.

*Harp on Wight* is now an international event. Together we have put Ryde on the world harp music map.



*Harp on Wight* values highly Ryde Town Council's support for our efforts through schools to kindle the interest of young people and bring more young musicians into the harp family.

**MANY THANKS to RYDE TOWN COUNCIL**  
from *Harp on Wight International*

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## *Eira Lynn Jones welcomes you to Harp on Wight International Festival 2021*

**'We are the music-makers, And we are the dreamers of dreams...'**\*

On a beautiful autumn day in 2019 I arrived to perform and teach at the *Harp on Wight* Festival for the first time. I travelled from Manchester with my Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) Harp Ensemble to present a concert of classical favourites, jazz arrangements, folk tunes and a graphic score. I still remember the audience's enthusiastic response and the feeling that something special was in the air. Little did I know that this would spark connections that continue to grow.

I was delighted to introduce the 2020 on-line Festival, and now write this preface for 2021. This brochure will unveil the variety of concerts and workshops, but there is far more to discover. The idea of inviting harpists to the island was 'born' at the Michelangelo Italian Restaurant, dreamt up by Anna Sacchini and fellow harp enthusiasts, as they gathered around a table sharing food and ideas. Eight years later the Festival flourishes. From beginner to professional, pedal or lever, classical or Celtic, electric or acoustic, everyone is welcome and everyone feels included. The support of sponsors, exhibitors,

volunteers, local community and intrepid harpists is essential to this event and is greatly valued. Harps are everywhere, but there is also time to tour the island, walk by the sea, have great conversations and sample delicious food and wine. In a year when we have not been



able to gather around to share with others, and a year when live music was silenced, it is time to meet again. Who knows what other dreams might be fulfilled, and what magical musical sparks will be in the air?

As for me, I am still in touch with many of my *Harp on Wight* course participants, who continue to fly with their music making. I'll see you there, so come and say hello! **Eira**

\*Arthur O'Shaughnessy

# HARP SHOWROOM 2021

**HARP ON WIGHT** welcomes everyone to visit the  
**Harp Showroom in Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road,  
Ryde PO33 2PT**

National harp makers will show their beautiful creations available for sale or rent, and will be happy to advise on all your needs as a player. Harp accessories and sheet music will also be on sale. The enchanted world of harps is at your disposal, just catch the opportunity.

Opening Hours:	Friday	22nd	October	10:00 - 17:00
	Saturday	23rd	October	10:00 - 17:00
	Sunday	24th	October	11:30 - 17:00
	Monday	25th	October	10:00 - 17:00
	Tuesday	26th	October	10:00 - 17:00

Some exhibitors may not stay throughout the Festival. Please check.



*The Clarsach Society  
(London and South-East Branch)*

*wishes Harp on Wight every success in 2021*

Join the Clarsach Society to benefit from

- lever harp hire at favourable rates
- help in finding a teacher
- local playing groups
- information about harp events, workshops, courses
- The Clarsach Society Annual Scholarship

Visit our stand in the exhibition

[www.clarsachsociety.co.uk](http://www.clarsachsociety.co.uk)/[www.harpsoutheast.org.uk](http://www.harpsoutheast.org.uk)

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# HARPCATCHER

An Evening of Harp Music to Introduce  
The Harp On The Wight  
International Festival

19th October

with Merlynnna Johnson

Tickets **£15** Including Food

Bring Your Own Bottle



*In anticipation of Harp On The Wight Festival*

*Saturday 19th October 2021 at 19:00  
Monkton Arts, 11 East Street, Ryde PO33 1JP  
[www.monktonarts.co.uk](http://www.monktonarts.co.uk)  
tickets from [monktonarts@gmail.com](mailto:monktonarts@gmail.com)  
tel. 07490 486356*

# HARPCATCHER

*Thursday 21st October*

**From 19:00 HARP-THEMED CANDLELIT DINNER**

**VENUE: MICHELANGELO RESTAURANT**  
31 St Thomas Street, Ryde PO33 2DL  
Tel. 01983 811966  
3 courses, Harp-themed Menu, £30  
Booking essential

*Harpist: Bethan Watson*

**BETHAN WATSON** is a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) where she studied under the guidance of Meirir Heulyn.

While studying at the RWCMD Bethan was a member of the Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra and participated in master classes with renowned harpists such as Isabelle Perrin, Caryl Thomas and Frances Kelly. Bethan has performed with numerous orchestras and is happiest when performing with the Jersey Symphony Orchestra. For over twelve years Bethan worked for the world famous harp manufacturer Salvi Harps. After a UK company restructure she embarked on a new challenge:



establishing The Harp Studio. In 2019 Bethan was awarded dealer of the year by Salvi, Lyon & Healy Harps. She is also an official authorised dealer for Welsh harp manufacturer Teifi Harps and Surrey-based harp manufacturer Pilgrim Harps.

# CONCERTS

## FRIDAY 22nd OCTOBER

**19:15 OPENING CONCERT: 'Music for Harp and Voices from the British Isles'**

**ANNE DENHOLM**, Harp, **LINDA FILBY-BORRETT** and *Voices of the Isle of Wight Choir*

Our Festival Patron Anne Denholm joins forces with Voices of the Isle of Wight Choir. The Choir, founded and conducted by Linda Filby-Borrett, has been performing together for more than 20 years, and has recorded a number of CDs and a DVD. The Choir has a broad age range from 7 to 80 plus, but its members have one thing in common: they all love to sing!

Tickets: £12, Children under 16: £6

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE PO33 2PT

## SATURDAY 23rd OCTOBER

**14:00 PERFORMANCE PLATFORM**

featuring two leading young international harpists:

**TARA VISCARDI** and **MARIA McNAMEE**, winner and runner-up of the 2021 North London Festival Camac Harp Competition.

Tickets: £8, Children under 16: £4

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE PO33 2PT

**19:15 LAUREN SCOTT: 'Beyond the Horizon'**

Inspiring music from Lauren's debut solo lever harp CD 'Beyond the Horizon' which showcases the unique qualities of the traditional lever harp – also known as the Celtic harp. Interpretations of atmospheric works by 20th century composers ranging from John Cage and Peter Maxwell Davies to Lennon and McCartney. During the concert Lauren will be joined by Anne Denholm to play a duet entitled 'Sea of Stars'.

Tickets: £14, Children under 16: £7

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE PO33 2PT

## SUNDAY 24th OCTOBER

### **14:00 ALEXANDER RIDER: 'Que la terre lui soit légère..'**

Commemorating the centenary of Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) who composed some of the finest and most enduring French music written for the harp. This programme also celebrates two other inspirational harpists who galvanised great composers to write for the harp: Micheline Kahn (1889-1987) and the tragic Doina Michailesco (1921-1941).

Tickets: £10, Children under 16: £5

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE PO33 2PT

### **19:15 CATRIONA MCKAY: 'Love in Secret'**

Expect an extraordinarily beautiful concert that promises to be a joy to hear - from gorgeous slow airs to percussive up-tempo pieces with amazing dynamics from a musician and composer of immense talent. Catriona's concert will include a premiere performance of music from her new album 'Love in Secret'.

Tickets: £14, Children under 16: £7

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE PO33 2PT

## MONDAY 25th OCTOBER

### **14:00 IMPROMPTU HARP ENSEMBLE: 'Adventures for Lever Harp'**

A further performance by Lauren Scott, together with students who have attended her Festival Workshop 'Adventures for Lever Harp'.

Tickets: £5

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE PO33 2PT

### **19:15 ANNE-MARIE O'FARRELL**

A very warm welcome to Anne-Marie, a leading lever harpist of her generation, who has performed all over the world. She is highly respected for her unique levering techniques which she continues to develop. Expect a sparkling concert!

Tickets: £14, Children under 16: £7

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE PO33 2PT

## TUESDAY 26th OCTOBER

### 19:15 LILY NEILL: 'Lily Neill in Concert'

A welcome return for Lily who thrilled the audience at her concert here in 2018. We can look forward to more highly dynamic melodies from ragtime to tango, to Eastern European and Nordic tunes, jigs and reels and Renaissance music.

Tickets: £14, Children under 16: £7

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH HALL,  
GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE PO33 2PT

**TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS CAN BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE**  
from [www.harponwight.co.uk](http://www.harponwight.co.uk), or phone 01983 730930,  
or, in person, at Monkton Arts, 11 East Street, Ryde, PO33 1JP  
or, during the Festival, from the  
Festival Box Office, Ryde Methodist Church.  
See page 35 for Box Office opening hours.  
A season ticket for all concerts is available at £75.

## THE UK HARP ASSOCIATION IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE EIGHTH HARP ON WIGHT FESTIVAL

The United Kingdom Harp Association exists to bring together all those interested in the harp in all its forms, including amateur and professional players, teachers, and businesses providing services for the harp.  
[www.ukharp.net](http://www.ukharp.net)



## BIOGRAPHIES

### ANNE DENHOLM

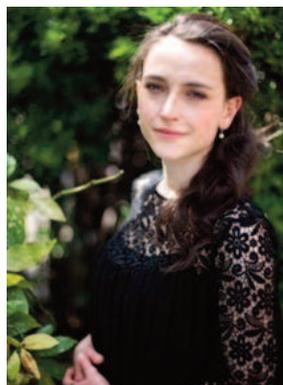
CONCERT: 19:15 FRIDAY 22nd OCTOBER,  
RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

**ANNE DENHOLM** is one of the leading British harpists of her generation and served as Official Harpist to HRH The Prince of Wales from 2015 to 2019. As a soloist and chamber musician, Anne enjoys giving regular recitals across the UK and further afield. Anne has also performed across the UK and internationally alongside her flute and harp duo partner, Alena Walentin ARAM.

New music is a large part of Anne's work - she is a founding member of award-winning contemporary experimental quartet, The Hermes Experiment, who have commissioned over sixty composers in the last six years. In 2019 The Hermes Experiment won the Royal Over-Seas League Mixed Ensemble Prize, and their debut album of original commissions, 'Here We Are', was released by Delphian Records in July 2020 to great critical acclaim. Their second album, 'Song', will be released in Autumn 2021.

Anne freelances with orchestras and choirs across England, most recently working with the BBC Concert Orchestra, English National Opera and Sir John Eliot Gardiner's Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique. She has recorded CDs with the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge, the Temple Church Choir, Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir and The Carice Singers. A dedicated teacher, Anne holds positions at Eton College, Windsor, and the Dragon School, Oxford, in addition to her private teaching. She also hugely enjoys working as an Instrumental Tutor for the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain. Anne studied at Newnham College, Cambridge, and the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in London. She received her Master's from the RAM with distinction, studying under Karen Vaughan, and graduating as the first ever harpist to win the historic RAM Club Prize. In 2020 she was elected an Associate of the RAM (ARAM).

[www.annedenholm.com](http://www.annedenholm.com)



*photo: Timothy Ellis*

## LINDA FILBY-BORRETT and VOICES OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT CHOIR

**LINDA FILBY-BORRETT** studied singing at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, after which she sang professionally for several years. Having moved to the Isle of Wight in the 1990s with her young family, Linda established a successful singing school, which was recognised in 2017 when she won the Classic FM 'Music Teacher of the Year' Lifetime Achievement Award.

To enable her pupils to experience many styles of music she formed 'Voices of the Isle of Wight'. The choir is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform with the harpist Anne Denholm.



### *Dorset House Hotel, Ryde, Isle of Wight*

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## PERFORMANCE PLATFORM

**TARA VISCARDI and MARIA McNAMEE**  
**CONCERT: 14:00 SATURDAY 23rd OCTOBER,**  
**RYDE METHODIST CHURCH**

**TARA VISCARDI**, First Prize winner of the 2021 London Camac Harp Competition, hails from the Beara Peninsula, Ireland. She has recently graduated from the Royal College of Music with a Master of Music in Performance (Distinction) where she studied with Professor Ieuan Jones. She has also completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Harp Performance at the Civica Scuola di Musica Claudio Abbado, Milan, with Irina Zingg. She is also a 2021 Wigmore Learning/Open Royal Academy of Music Fellow as a member of early music/folk fusion trio Nobody's Jig.

Tara has performed widely as a solo and chamber recitalist. Her career highlights to date include appearances at the Bloomsbury Festival, London; Dublin Philharmonic Society recital series; the Irish Embassy in London; the Royal College of Music Chamber Music series; taking part in the Young Artists' Masterclass Programme at the 13th World Harp Congress, Hong Kong; playing for HRH The Prince of Wales in Hillsborough Castle, and playing for Irish President Michael D. Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin.



Tara's numerous prize awards include Firsts for Senior Recital and Concerto, the John Vallery Memorial Prize at the 2016 Irish Freemasons Young Musician of the Year, and runner up for the 2018 Irish Heritage Music Bursary for Performance. She has won all major prizes for harp at Irish national music competitions. A passionate Irish traditional musician, she regularly performs her own arrangements and compositions. She has toured extensively with the TU Dublin Harp and Traditional Music Ensembles playing a beautiful Killarney Harp, hand-crafted for her by Tim O'Carroll in her native Co. Kerry. Tara is very grateful for the generous support of the Arts Council of Ireland and the Royal College of Music.

## MARIA McNAMEE

**MARIA MCNAMEE**, from Northern Ireland, won Second Prize in the London Camac Competition 2021. She began playing the harp at the age of nine, embracing traditional Irish and classical music. In 2011, Maria joined Chetham's School of Music where she spent six years studying with Marie Leenhardt, Gabriella Dall'Olio and En Hudson. She is a current undergraduate scholar at Trinity Laban Conservatoire studying with Gabriella Dall'Olio and Frances Kelly.

Maria's early achievements include runner-up Irish Heritage Award winner with a performance at the Wigmore Hall in 2017, and winner of the John Marson Prize in 2020. Solo engagements have included playing for the Irish Ambassador in London, playing for the Duke of Wellington at Apsley house, and regular performances at the Queen's House and the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London.

Maria has played under the baton of orchestral conductors such as Michael Seal, Paul Mann, Jac Van Steen, Mirga Gražinyte-Tyla, Franz Anton Krager and Ilyich Rivas. She is a current member of the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra. Previously she was principal harpist with the Ulster Youth Orchestra



and for two years a member of the City of Birmingham Youth Orchestra. Maria has performed at venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall, the Bridgewater Hall, Slovak Radio Hall, St John's, Smith Square, and the Stoller Hall. As a chamber musician Maria's septet won First Prize in the Fiona Ord chamber music competition in 2017. Maria is very appreciative of the support she receives from the Trinity College London Scholarship, and Help Musicians UK.

### **CAMAC HARP COMPETITION**

This major award for harpists is sponsored by the French harp makers Camac. Entry is open to harpists of conservatoire standard or higher, studying or resident in the United Kingdom or Ireland, aged up to thirty years. [www.northlondonfestival.org.uk](http://www.northlondonfestival.org.uk)

## FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

	<b>Friday 22nd October</b>	<b>Saturday 23rd October</b>
<b>09:30-11:00</b>		<b>Workshop Lauren Scott</b> 'Adventures for lever harp'
<b>11:30-13:00</b>	<b>Workshop Audrey Cameron Finnemore</b> 'Enchanting Melodies for Beginners'	<b>Workshop Catriona McKay</b> 'Catriona's Top Tunes of the Moment'
<b>14:00-15:00</b>	<b>Merlyнна Johnson</b> 'Discover the Harp' Demonstration for absolute beginners	<b>Performance Platform Tara Viscardi Maria McNamee</b>
<b>15:30-17:00</b>	<b>Workshop Audrey Cameron Finnemore</b> 'Enchanting Melodies for Beginners'	<b>Workshop Catriona McKay</b> 'Catriona's Top Tunes of the Moment'
<b>17:00</b>	<b>Sound Check</b>	<b>Sound Check</b>
<b>19:15</b>	<b>Opening Concert ANNE DENHOLM LINDA FILBY-BORRETT and VOICES OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT</b>	<b>Concert LAUREN SCOTT</b>

**ALL CONCERTS, EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS WILL TAKE PLACE  
IN RYDE METHODIST CHURCH OR CHURCH HALL.  
FOR WORKSHOPS PLEASE CHECK ROOM LOCATION.**

<b>Sunday 24th October</b>	<b>Monday 25th October</b>	<b>Tuesday 26th October</b>
<p><b>Workshop</b> <b>Catriona McKay</b> 'Catriona's Top Tunes of the Moment'</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b> <b>Anne-Marie O'Farrell</b> 'Irish Airs for the Harp'</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b> <b>Lily Neill</b> 'Exploring Eastern Europe'</p>
<p><b>Workshop</b> <b>Lauren Scott</b> 'Adventures for lever harp'</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b> <b>Lily Neill</b> 'Exploring Eastern Europe'</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b> <b>Anne-Marie O'Farrell</b> 'Irish Airs for the Harp'</p>
<p><b>ALEXANDER RIDER</b> 'Que la terre lui soit légère...'</p>	<p><b>IMPROMPTU HARP ENSEMBLE LAUREN SCOTT and students</b></p>	
<p><b>Workshop</b> <b>Lauren Scott</b> 'Adventures for lever harp'</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b> <b>Lily Neill</b> 'Exploring Eastern Europe'</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b> <b>Anne-Marie O'Farrell</b> 'Irish Airs for the Harp'</p>
<b>Sound Check</b>	<b>Sound Check</b>	<b>Sound Check</b>
<p><b>Concert</b> <b>CATRIONA MCKAY</b></p>	<p><b>Concert</b> <b>ANNE-MARIE O'FARRELL</b></p>	<p><b>Concert</b> <b>LILY NEILL</b></p>

## LAUREN SCOTT

**CONCERT: 19:15 SATURDAY 23rd OCTOBER,  
RYDE METHODIST CHURCH**

**LAUREN SCOTT** fell in love with the harp aged four after seeing a historic lever harp in a museum in Australia. After pestering her parents, she began harp lessons two years later when her family moved back to England. Lauren studied harp at Trinity College London and has a busy musical career.

An established freelance player, Lauren plays guest principal harp with many leading orchestras and chamber groups as well as pursuing her own projects. She has performed in venues across the UK from the Royal Albert Hall to West End shows, from commercial recordings to live broadcasts on radio and TV.

Since setting out on her composing career in 2018 Lauren has published two volumes of music for lever harp. Her music has received praise from harpists and harp societies worldwide and her music is used as set pieces on Trinity and AMEB syllabuses. In January 2020 she was a recipient of a PRS Foundation Women Make Music award to compose new harp music. In March 2020 her debut solo CD 'Beyond the Horizon' was released on the Avie Records label to critical acclaim.

Lauren's music has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Scala Radio, and included in BBC Introducing & Apple Music playlists. In January 2021 she received a 'Developing Your Creative Practice' award from Arts Council England. Lauren is currently Composer-in-Residence with Harps North West.

'Pre-eminently thoughtful and compelling, she draws sounds of deep soulfulness and will-o'-the-wisp rustlings. Her lever harp sings sweetly and the recording is beautifully judged.'

*BBC Music Magazine*



## ALEXANDER RIDER

**CONCERT: 14:00 SUNDAY 24th OCTOBER,  
RYDE METHODIST CHURCH**

**ALEXANDER RIDER** has a fascination for the lore and history of the harp. His busy freelance career covers a wealth of projects ranging from period performance to the cutting edge of contemporary music. Highlights of Alexander's orchestral career include the BBC Concert Orchestra; London Sinfonietta; City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; Ballet Rambert; London Chamber Orchestra; Schleswig Holstein Festival Orchestra and Chroma; extensive concert work in the fields of light music and musical theatre; work on original instruments with the Academy of Ancient Music and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique.

As a recitalist, Alexander is known for his intriguing programmes that explore rarities of the harp's literature. Working on an original French Erard concert harp, he has given rein to his passion for the explosion of harp music in France at the turn of the last century, and in this field has given many acclaimed concerts and lecture recitals.



Alexander was a student of Frances Kelly and Gabriella Dall'Olio, before furthering his studies with Imogen Barford at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he later held a Guildhall Artist Fellowship.

### THANK YOU

The *Harp on Wight* team gives a big 'thank you' to everyone who has worked so hard to make the Eighth Harp on Wight Festival happen. We could not have done it without you all!

## **CATRIONA McKAY**

**CONCERT: 19:15 SUNDAY 24th OCTOBER,  
RYDE METHODIST CHURCH**

**CATRIONA McKAY** is from Dundee, Scotland. She is an award-winning, fearless explorer of the Scottish harp who is widely recognised for her dynamic musicianship and innovative rhythm harp style. She embodies the strength and delicacy of her artistic imagination with the apparent simplicity of her wooden Starfish acoustic harp and its clear gut strings. Common responses from her audiences include 'she makes the harp sound like an orchestra' and 'how can she make so many sounds with just two hands?'. Even album reviewers ask if she has been double tracking!

Catriona has a hugely rewarding music partnership of more than twenty years with Shetland fiddler and composer Chris Stout. They have several recordings and have performed worldwide, communicating the bold and adventurous dialogue of their native Scottish music. They have composed and scored their music for the Scottish Ensemble, Quatour Ébène, several international orchestras, bands and more. In 2012 they premiered 'Seavaigers', the first ever concerto for Scottish harp and fiddle, written specially for them by composer Sally Beamish.

Catriona has five solo harp albums. Her recent recording 'Love in Secret' received 5 stars from the Scotsman and was hailed 'one of the best of 2020' by Folk Radio UK. Catriona has also created three albums of improvised music with composer Alistair MacDonald. They released a new album 'When Feathers Appear' in summer 2021. Catriona's composition 'Swan LK243', written for a Shetland herring fishing boat built in 1900, has been played and recorded by musicians worldwide. Her many awards include Scots Trad Music Awards Instrumentalist of the Year 2007 and 2014, and BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Best Duo 2018, with Chris Stout.



## **ANNE-MARIE O'FARRELL**

**CONCERT: 19:15 MONDAY 25th OCTOBER,  
RYDE METHODIST CHURCH**

**DR ANNE-MARIE O'FARRELL**, leading lever harpist of her generation, from Dublin, has performed all over the world as a solo artist, accompanist, and in ensembles, and is regularly featured in broadcasts. She is particularly recognised for her expansion of repertoire and levering techniques, as a result of which the world's leading harpmakers Salvi Harps redesigned their lever harps to become concert instruments.

Anne-Marie has performed with numerous orchestras, including the Irish Baroque Orchestra, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, the Irish Memory Orchestra, and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra with which she premiered Ryan Molloy's Concerto for lever harp, 'Gealán'. A prolific recording artist, she has released several CDs, including 'Just So Bach', 'Harping Bach to Carolan', 'The Jig's Up' and 'My Lagan Love'. She is frequently invited to give recitals, workshops and masterclasses at conferences and festivals around the world, and has performed at several World Harp Congresses.

Dedicated to the expansion of repertoire for the lever harp, she has published critical editions for lever harp of Bach's cello, keyboard and lute repertoire. Anne-Marie holds a PhD in composition with Piers Hellawell at Queen's University Belfast and lectures in composition at the TU Dublin Conservatory of Music and Drama.



Anne-Marie has recently completed several large-scale commissions featuring the harp, including a lever harp concerto, and a five-movement work for large harp ensemble. She held a three year composition residency, funded by the Arts Council of Ireland, at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

## LILY NEILL

**CONCERT: 19:15 TUESDAY 26TH OCTOBER,  
RYDE METHODIST CHURCH HALL**

**LILY NEILL** was just three years old when she told her family that she was going to play the harp. She even made one for herself from a shoebox and rubber bands! Lily began her music education on the piano yet through her unwavering determination to play the harp she soon became proficient at both instruments. By the time she was thirteen she had won numerous prizes at music competitions. Lily's teenage years were filled with everything from playing the harp in orchestral premieres to collaborations with dancers and actors, and performances with the legendary Derek Bell and The Chieftains. Lily performed for President Bill Clinton in Washington DC and, a decade later, in Moscow for President Mary McAleese at the first ever visit by an Irish Head of State to Russia.

Collaborations with poets, 'rock 'n' roll' artists, filmmakers, and dancers have all influenced Lily's playing and today her solo performances highlight the scope of her musicianship. From North America to Europe and Russia she has mesmerized and delighted listeners. Critics have praised her effortless technique, versatility, and the uniqueness of her style, Lily has released two solo CDs to strong acclaim: 'Without Words' in 2004 (short-listed for a GRAMMY nomination) and 2011's 'The Habit of a Foreign Sky', which captured attention with its dramatic musical range and interpretations of such '...staggering beauty that it melts your hard heart'. *Irish American News*

Lily earned a 1st Class Honours degree in Irish Music and Dance from the Irish World Academy at the University of Limerick, Ireland, and a Master of Music degree from Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. Lily's firm understanding of the harp, coupled with the diversity of her experience, and an appreciation of music in the broadest sense, has contributed to her wholly rooted, yet eminently distinctive, modern sound. [www.lilyneill.com](http://www.lilyneill.com)



## **AUDREY CAMERON FINNEMORE**

**WORKSHOPS: 'ENCHANTING MELODIES FOR BEGINNERS'**

**Friday 22nd October 11:30-13:00**

**Friday 22nd October 15:30-17:00**

**RYDE METHODIST CHURCH**

**AUDREY CAMERON FINNEMORE** began playing the harp at the age of 14 with Mrs Anne Hughes-Chamberlain. She was later accepted at the Royal College of Music to study with Marisa Robles. Audrey now plays at many functions across the south of England.

In 2016 Audrey was invited to play at an English garden in Japan giving 57 mini-concerts in three and a half weeks! In 2019 she was invited to return and delighted Japanese audiences yet again.



## **MERLYNNA JOHNSON**

**WORKSHOP: 'DISCOVER THE HARP'**

**Friday 22nd October 14:00-15:00**

**RYDE METHODIST CHURCH**

**MERLYNNA JOHNSON** came to playing the harp in her mid-forties. She had studied piano and voice from an early age but was drawn to harp music when her children were studying various musical instruments. Thinking it an impossible dream she found a secondhand harp and a local teacher took her through harp technique.

Since then Merlynnna has played for every occasion, sometimes combining harp and voice. Now, based on the Isle of Wight, her main focus has been 'Harp for Healing', visiting the many Retirement Homes on the Island in conjunction with Independent Arts.



## WORKSHOPS 2021

### **MERLYNNA JOHNSON: 'DISCOVER THE HARP'**

*(for Absolute Beginners)*

**Friday 22nd October 14:00-15:00**

**Ryde Methodist Church Lecture Room**

An opportunity for everyone to discover the harp. All ages welcome. Merlynna will demonstrate the basic technique and will help anyone intending to take this instrument further. £5 x 1 session of 1 hour

**NOTE: This is a demonstration only. In the current situation we are not able to supply harps for students to use.**

### **AUDREY CAMERON FINNEMORE:**

*'ENCHANTING MELODIES FOR BEGINNERS'*

**Friday 22nd October 11:30-13:00**

**Friday 22nd October 15:30-17:00**

**Ryde Methodist Church Lecture Room**

A chance to build up a solid technique from the beginning, and to approach with confidence simple but beautiful melodies. Written music given. This course is suitable for students who have already taken some lessons, but still need help with the basic technique

LEVEL: Beginners/Elementary. £30 (2 session x 1.5 hrs)

**Students must provide their own harp.**

### **LAUREN SCOTT: 'ADVENTURES FOR LEVER HARP'**

**Saturday 23rd October 9:30-11:00**

**Sunday 24th October 11:30-13:00**

**Sunday 24th October 15:30-17:00**

**Ryde Methodist Church Lecture Room**

An exploration of fun and funky extended techniques that can be achieved on lever harp for all levels of players. Have a go at trying out the various extended techniques in this session and then we will incorporate as many as we have mastered into some mixed ability ensemble pieces written by Lauren Scott.

LEVEL: Suitable for all levels of harp playing and music reading abilities. £45 (3 sessions x 1.5 hrs)

**Students must provide their own harp.**

**CATRIONA McKAY:**

**'CATRIONA'S TOP TUNES OF THE MOMENT'**

**Saturday 23rd October 11:30-13:00**

**Saturday 23rd October 15:30-17:00**

**Sunday 24th October 9:30-11:00**

**Ryde Methodist Church Lecture Room**

Come and learn some of Catriona's current favourites! Make some great music and learn a few tricks from whatever inspires her when she arrives on the Isle of Wight! Catriona fully believes whatever inspires her will inspire others too. She is looking forward to creating something exciting with all those who take part.

LEVEL: From Post-beginners to Intermediate level.

£45 (3 session x 1.5 hrs)

**Students must provide their own harp.**

**ANNE-MARIE O'FARRELL:**

**'IRISH AIRS FOR THE HARP'**

**Monday 25th October 9:30-11:00**

**Tuesday 26th October 11:30-13:00**

**Tuesday 26th October 15:30-17:00**

**Ryde Methodist Church Lecture Room**

This workshop will cover a range of Irish melodies suitable for post-beginner harpists, using easy arrangements and exploring the musical language of tunes from Ireland. You will discover interesting ways of using the left hand and exploring aspects of colour on the instrument. Some of the airs are from Ireland's song tradition, while others represent our legacy of harping, hundreds of years old.

LEVEL: Post-beginners. £45 (3 session x 1.5 hrs)

**Students must provide their own harp.**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN HARP OR MAKE  
ARRANGEMENTS TO RENT AN INSTRUMENT.  
SOME OF THE EXHIBITORS IN THE HARP SHOWROOM  
MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.  
PLEASE CONTACT THEM IN ADVANCE.**

LILY NEILL

**'EXPLORING EASTERN EUROPE'**

**Monday 25th October 11:30-13:00**

**Monday 25th October 15:30-17:00**

**Tuesday 26th October 9:30-11:00**

**Ryde Methodist Church Lecture Room**

This workshop takes a broad geographic stroke across the east of Europe, exploring Klezmer and Roma repertoire; Balkan tunes; Baltic songs and Transylvanian dances. With some new melodies in our fingers, we'll delve into various arrangement tools and techniques to help develop and personalise our interpretations.

The course will be taught both aurally and using sheet music.

LEVEL: Intermediate. £45 (3 session x 1.5 hrs)

**Students must provide their own harp.**

**HOW TO BOOK FOR WORKSHOPS**

Complete the booking form available on the website:

**[www.harponwight.co.uk](http://www.harponwight.co.uk)**

or contact: [annasacchini@btinternet.com](mailto:annasacchini@btinternet.com)

or Vic King: +44(0)1983 730930

A maximum number of 10-12 students is accepted for each workshop.

Please book early to avoid disappointment. Please bring your own harp, or arrange in advance to rent an instrument, possibly from one of the companies who will be exhibiting in the Harp Showroom in Ryde Methodist Church.

A list of exhibitors can be found on *Harp on Wight* website:

**[www.harponwight.co.uk](http://www.harponwight.co.uk)**



## GUIDE TO WORKSHOP LEVELS

### **ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS**

No experience of playing the harp.

### **BEGINNERS**

Even if you have already taken some lessons, you still need help with the basic technique.

### **POST-BEGINNERS**

You know where to place all your fingers, and you can already perform simple tunes, but you require further help in developing technique.

### **INTERMEDIATE**

Your technique is established and you are able to work at moderate speed or stretch yourself.

## WORKSHOP REGISTRATION AND VENUES

**REGISTRATION:** Please register for your workshop at the Festival Box Office, Ryde Methodist Church, as soon as possible after your arrival.

See page 35 for Box Office opening times.

**VENUE:** All workshops take place in Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT. Check your room location in the Church.

There is a short-stay car park near the Church in Victoria Street, Ryde PO33 2PU.

# Make Yourself a Harp in 6 days

under the guidance of  
SYLVESTRE CHARBIN (France)

organized by Harp On Wight

**QUARR ABBEY**  
Archway Meeting Room  
RYDE, Isle of Wight, PO33 4ES

22nd - 26th October 2021

design by Lucia Lora

## **MAKE YOURSELF A HARP**

Due to the current travel uncertainty for our course tutor we have been forced to cancel the course planned for this year's Festival.

We hope to arrange something in the new year.

Please check our website for updates. [www.harponwight.co.uk](http://www.harponwight.co.uk)

# The Olive Tree Restaurant



## At Busy Bee Garden Centre

One of the Islands leading restaurants for day time catering featuring stylish home cooked food with menu changing daily.

Considering a celebratory lunch ?

This is your ideal venue – chat to our chefs and together create your own menu. If you fancy a fillet or would just love a lobster nothing is too much trouble however large or small

*Spacious Airy Restaurant – Easy Disabled Access  
Free Parking*

01983 811096 [www.busybeegardencentre.co.uk](http://www.busybeegardencentre.co.uk)



Michelangelo Italian Restaurant is proud to support the *Eighth Harp on Wight Festival 2021*

## TRAVELLING TO HARP ON WIGHT

### **Wightlink foot passenger ferry:**

Portsmouth Harbour to Ryde Pier Head, 22 minutes

### **Wightlink car and foot passenger ferry:**

Portsmouth to Fishbourne, 45 minutes

Lymington to Yarmouth, 40 minutes

[www.wightlink.co.uk](http://www.wightlink.co.uk), tel. 0333 999 7333

### **Hovertravel foot passenger Hovercraft:**

Portsmouth (Southsea) to Ryde, 10 minutes

[www.hovertravel.co.uk](http://www.hovertravel.co.uk), tel. 01983 717700 or 0345 222 0461

### **Red Funnel car and foot passenger ferry:**

Southampton to East Cowes, 55-60 minutes

### **Red Funnel Redjet foot passenger ferry:**

Southampton to West Cowes, 25 minutes

[www.redfunnel.co.uk](http://www.redfunnel.co.uk), tel. 0844 844 9988

### **Island buses to Ryde from Fishbourne, Cowes, Yarmouth**

Southern Vectis: [www.islandbuses.info](http://www.islandbuses.info), tel. 01983 827000

### **Trains from London Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour:**

[www.southwesternrailway.com](http://www.southwesternrailway.com)

### **Trains from London Victoria to Portsmouth Harbour:**

[www.southernrailway.com](http://www.southernrailway.com)

## ACCOMMODATION

**Dorset House Hotel**, 31 Dover Street, Ryde, PO33 2BW

[www.thedorsethotel.co.uk](http://www.thedorsethotel.co.uk), 01983 564327

**Travelodge**, Lind Hill, Ryde, PO33 2LD

Email: [Rydeiw.mgr@travelodge.co.uk](mailto:Rydeiw.mgr@travelodge.co.uk), tel. 01983 564436

**Also see:** [www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/explore/towns/ryde/placestostay](http://www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/explore/towns/ryde/placestostay)

## CAR PARKS IN RYDE

Victoria Street, Ryde PO33 2PU

Lind Street, Ryde PO33 2NT

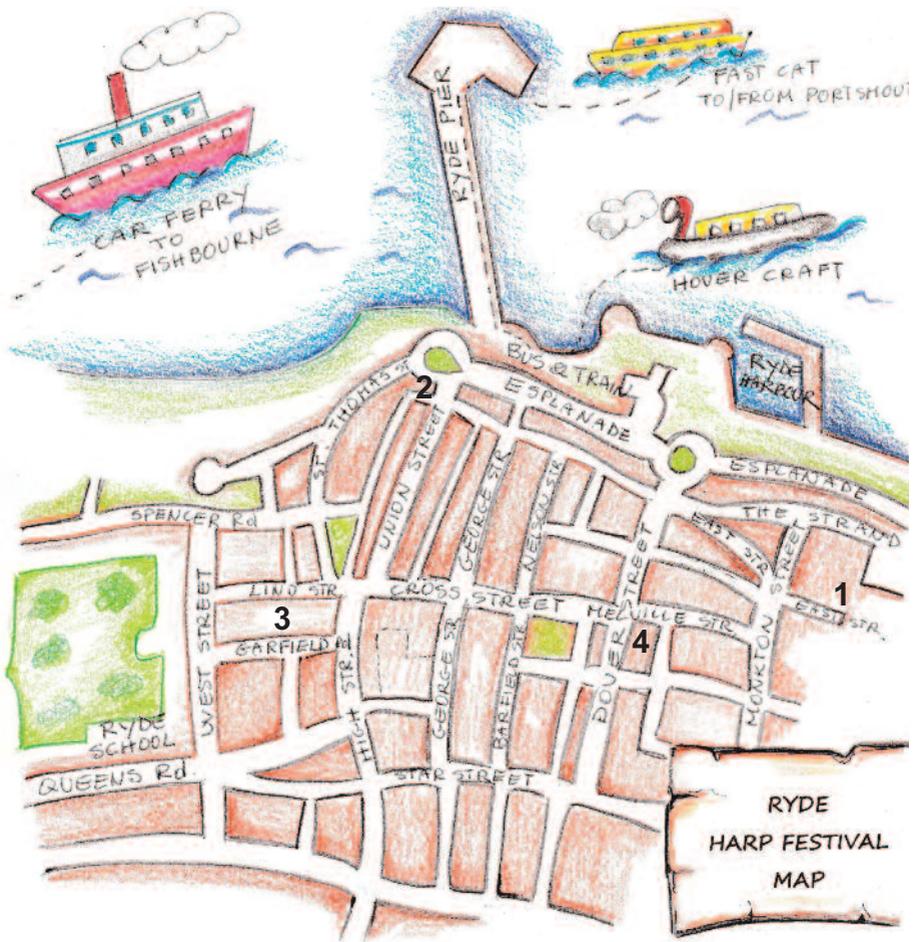
St. Thomas Street, Ryde PO33 2DL

Green Street, Ryde PO33 2QH

**Isle of Wight Council website for parking information and tourist**

**parking tickets:** [www.iwight.com/Visitors/Parking-and-Travel](http://www.iwight.com/Visitors/Parking-and-Travel)

**Also see:** [www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/travel/car-parking-and-car-parks](http://www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/travel/car-parking-and-car-parks)



1 - MONKTON ARTS (Harpcatcher)

2 - MICHELANGELO RESTAURANT (Harpcatcher)

3 - RYDE METHODIST CHURCH (Concerts and Workshops)

4 - DORSET HOTEL (Harpists' Headquarters)

# Summary of Programme Contents

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Travel, Accommodation and Parking	p 33
Map of Harp on Wight venues	p 34

## Festival Box Office, Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT Opening Hours

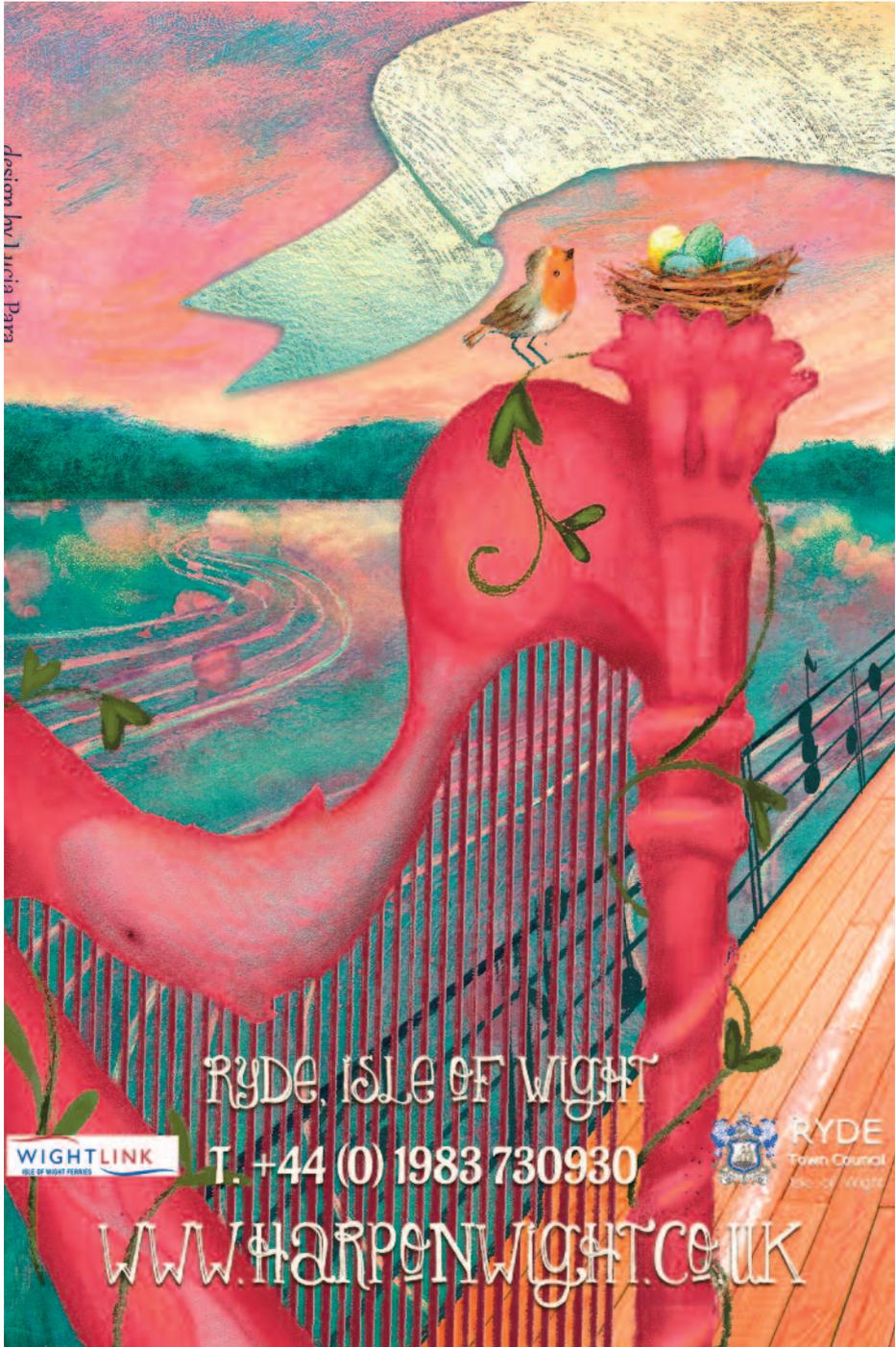
Friday	22nd October	09:15-17:00
Saturday	23rd October	10:00-17:00
Sunday	24th October	11:30-17:00
Monday	25th October	10:00-17:00
Tuesday	26th October	10:00-17:00

**TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS CAN BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE**  
from [www.harponwight.co.uk](http://www.harponwight.co.uk), or phone 01983 730930  
or, in person, at Monkton Arts, 11 East Street, Ryde, PO33 1JP  
or, during the Festival, from the Festival Box Office,  
opening hours as above.

**A season ticket for all concerts is available at £75.**

**Harp on Wight**  
9 Whitwell Farm, High Street, Whitwell,  
Isle of Wight PO38 2PY  
[www.harponwight.co.uk](http://www.harponwight.co.uk)

design by Lucia Parra



RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT



T. +44 (0) 1983 730930



RYDE  
Town Council  
Isle of Wight

WWW.HAPPONWIGHT.CO.UK